

PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County, Fontana Partner to Repave Hemlock Avenue

SAN BERNARDINO—Feb. 14, 2012—On Tuesday, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a cooperative with the City of Fontana to repave Hemlock Avenue between Whittram Avenue and Foothill Boulevard.

“City-County partnerships such as this allow us to provide residents with the most comprehensive road improvement projects by ensuring that improvements take place in both unincorporated and incorporated areas,” San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said.

The Hemlock Avenue repaving project is expected to cost \$735,000. The agreement calls for the County to cover 85.3 percent of the project (\$626,961) while the City will cover the remaining 14.7 percent (\$108,039). The cost split is based on the distance of roadway within unincorporated and incorporated areas. The repaving project is expected to begin in late April and will take about two months to complete.

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NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2012

For more information, contact
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County prepares assault on citrus-killing insect

The Board of Supervisors tomorrow will consider joining forces with the state to fight the citrus-destroying Asian Citrus Psyllid.

News media interested in observing how the state controls the pest are invited to view a demonstration tomorrow morning, February 7, at 11:30 a.m. at the citrus trees outside the west entrance to the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino. Crews will be spraying the county's trees in the same way they will soon treat residential trees.

"Citrus is an important part of my district's economy, so I plan to support all efforts to eradicate this pest before it threatens groves in our county and elsewhere," said Supervisor Neil Derry, whose Third District includes Redlands, Loma Linda, Yucaipa, Big Bear Lake, the Morongo Basin, and Barstow.

The board will consider a resolution supporting the state's establishment of containment lines to restrict the spread of the Asian Citrus Psyllid within the county and authorize the county Agricultural Commissioner to use his abatement authority, if necessary, to order owners of infested properties to treat their trees or have the infested trees removed at the owner's expense.

The Asian Citrus Psyllid is a small aphid-like insect that acts as a carrier of huanglongbing, also known as HLB and Citrus Greening Disease, an incurable bacterial disease that destroys fruit and eventually kills infected trees. HLB has caused significant economic losses in Florida and Mexico.

HLB has always followed the appearance of Asian Citrus Psyllids. The insect was found in California in 2008 and has spread to Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino, CA 92408



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Miller 909-382-2788

Put on Your Eagle Eyes to Help Spot Eagles!

San Bernardino, Calif., January, 2012 – On Saturday February 11th, the third bald eagle count of the winter will be conducted around lakes in southern California and your help is needed!

This year marks the 34th season that the San Bernardino National Forest has organized monthly winter bald eagle counts. Concurrent Bald Eagle counts are held at Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Silverwood State Recreation Area, Lake Hemet, and Lake Perris State Recreation Area. Volunteers are stationed at vantage points around the lakes and they map and record any eagle observations during a 1-hour period.

“We need all the eyes we can get helping look for eagles during these counts. These censuses wouldn’t be possible without our great volunteers. Plus, it’s a good excuse to get outside on a Saturday morning” said wildlife biologist Robin Eliason. “We will explain everything you need to do when you arrive for the orientation. Just dress warmly, bring binoculars and a watch. There’s no experience needed.”

During the January bald eagle count, grand total of 11 to 13 eagles (7-8 adults and 4-5 juveniles) were observed at the lake areas during the 1- hour period. The number of bald eagles in southern California typically starts of low in December, peaking in January and February, and tapers off in March.

Please join us for the bald eagle counts this winter in order to learn about eagles, help with the long-term study effort, and possibly get a glimpse of our beautiful national.

Please consider joining us for a free 45-minute bald eagle presentation at the Big Bear Discovery Center at 11:00 after the February 11th bald eagle count. Discovery Center website: <http://nationalforestassociation.org/bigbeardiscoverycenter.php>

There are two remaining Eagle counts for this winter, scheduled for the following Saturday mornings: February 11 and March 10. Mark your calendars now.

No experience needed. Volunteers should dress warmly and bring binoculars and a watch.

- **Big Bear Lake** area volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Big Bear Discovery Center on North Shore Drive. Contact Robin Eliason at 909-382-2832 for more information.
- **Lake Arrowhead/Lake Gregory** volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sky Forest Ranger Station. Contact Robin Eliason, Wildlife Biologist, at 909-382-2832 for more information.
- **Silverwood Lake State Park** volunteers should contact the park office for information during business hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at 760-389-2281, and plan to meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m.
- **Lake Hemet** volunteers should plan on meeting at the Lake Hemet Grocery Store at 8:30 a.m. for instructions. Contact Ann Poopatanapong at 909-382-2935 for more information.

- **Lake Perris State Park** volunteers should contact the park office for information at 951-940-5600, and plan to meet at the Lake Perris Regional Indian Museum.

/For additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest, please visit:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>.

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Background

The U.S. Forest Service and State Recreation Area biologists have coordinated counts of this federally-protected species since 1978. Data from our local count will be added to the nation-wide Mid-Winter Bald Eagle census to assess recovery status of the species. We rely on volunteers to gather information during the monthly winter eagle counts. Counts are conducted for a 1-hour period from 9-10 a.m. Forest Service volunteers stationed around lakes in Big Bear, Arrowhead, and Idyllwild record all observations of bald eagles. Volunteers at Silverwood Lake and Lake Perris State Recreation Areas conduct simultaneous counts.

Bald eagles are similar to many southern Californians in that they visit the lakes of our San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains for their winter vacations between November and April. Instead of vacationing here for dynamite skiing, eagles come for the plentiful food supplies. As lakes and rivers up north freeze each winter, fish become unavailable under a thick layer of ice and ducks leave the frozen waters. The eagles' "grocery stores" have essentially closed for the winter. So eagles fly south looking for open water stocked with food. The lakes of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains fit the bill perfectly--they are part of the Pacific Migratory Flyway, a migration freeway for millions of ducks. Eagles like to spend their winters here because of the abundance of tasty ducks and fish.

Our bald eagles normally migrate out of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains in late March, heading back to summer homes in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Alberta, Canada. In recent years, a pair of bald eagles has remained at Lake Hemet and successfully produced several eaglets.

Catching a glimpse of our breath-taking national bird is relatively easy during the winter months. There are also some fantastic opportunities for excellent close-up photography. Just look in the tallest trees around the lakeshore. Or, if the lake is partially frozen, look for eagles perched on the ice near small groups of ducks using open water pockets.

Remember that human presence may distract or disturb the eagles--so, try to limit your movements and don't make loud noises when nearby. If possible, remain in your car while observing eagles--the car acts as a blind.

BIG BEAR LAKE EAGLE COUNT SUMMARY

(Includes Big Bear and Baldwin Lakes)

Year	Month	December	January	February	March	April	Average	High Count
1978 - 1979		7	27	27	18	9	18	27
1979 - 1980		20	22	13	11	3	14	22
1980 - 1981		11	19	25			18	25
1981 - 1982		15	27	22	6	3	15	27
1982 - 1983		7	27	18	11		16	27
1983 - 1984		14	28	18	10		18	28
1984 - 1985		27	8	3	3		10	27
1985 - 1986		20	24		9		18	24
1986 - 1987		20	24		9		18	24
1987 - 1988		9	17	21	16		16	21
1988 - 1989		12	6	4	12		9	12
1989 - 1990		15	11	19	17		16	19
1990 - 1991		6	16	22	17		15	22
1991 - 1992		19	19	13	9		15	19
1992 - 1993		6	15	3	3		7	15
1993 - 1994		9	17	15	8		12	17
1994 - 1995		10	10	20	No Count		13	20
1995 - 1996		6	14	15	10		11	15
1996 - 1997		10	15	5	9		10	15
1997 - 1998		8	14 - 15	15	12		12	15
1998 - 1999		8	17	15 - 17	9		11	17
1999 - 2000		8	13	3	13		9	13
2000 - 2001		13	13	14	12		13	14
2001 - 2002		7	9	11	9		9	11
2002 - 2003		6	13	15	9		11	15
2003 - 2004		4	14	11	7		9	14
2004 - 2005		6	1	4	5		4	6
2005 - 2006		7	4	6	No Count		6	7
2006 - 2007		4	8	5	5		6	8
2007 - 2008		4	3	6	3		4	6
2008 - 2009		No Count	6	No Count	5		6	6
2009 - 2010		4	6	9	5		6	9
2010 - 2011		2	5	5	3		4	5
2011 - 2012		4	6-8	Feb 11	March 10			
Average		10	15	13	9	5	12	17
SUMMARY						Maximum	18	28
						Minimum	4	6
						Median	12	16

US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino, CA 92408



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Miller 909-382-2788

Fire Restrictions Lowered on the San Bernardino National Forest

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., February 22, 2012— With recent winter weather across the southland, forest officials on the San Bernardino National Forest reduced fire restrictions effective today and will resume winter burning projects.

“We will continue to monitor the weather and fuel conditions across the landscape and change restriction levels as conditions warrant,” said Fire Prevention Officer Randy Unkovich. “We always encourage the public to be vigilant and know the current restrictions when on the national forest lands,” Unkovich added.

Under the reduced fire restrictions, visitors may have wood and charcoal fires in agency-provided campfire rings at campgrounds, picnic areas and yellow post sites. Recreational target shooting is permitted within designated sites in the Big Bear area and permitted areas on the San Jacinto Ranger District.

Current fire restriction and guidelines in effect on the San Bernardino National Forest are as follows:

- Wood and charcoal campfires are allowed only in developed campgrounds, picnic areas and Yellow Post campsites within agency-provided fire rings or designated stoves.
- Campfire permits are required for propane and gas stoves and lanterns used outside of developed recreation sites.
- Recreational shooting is limited to designated sites and public shooting ranges operated under special use permit only, except those engaged in legal hunting.
- The 1N09 Recreational Shooting area remains closed.
- An approved spark arrester is required for any internal combustion engine operated on designated forest routes. These include chainsaws, generators, motorcycles, and off-highway vehicles.
- Smoking is limited to enclosed vehicles, developed recreation sites and areas cleared of vegetation, three feet in diameter.
- Fireworks are always prohibited on the San Bernardino National Forest. Tracer, armor piercing, steel core, and Teflon ammunitions are also prohibited, as is discharging a firearm at any exploding target.

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Winter burning projects also will resume as part of a continuing effort to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health, the San Bernardino National Forest has started this season's prescribed burning program. The prescribed fire program will continue through the winter months as weather and conditions permit.

The ignition of all prescribed burns is dependent on the availability of personnel and equipment, appropriate conditions, and in coordination with the National Weather Service and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) before and during prescribed burns in order to manage smoke production and minimize impacts as much as possible.

Fire managers follow a burn plan that outlines the "prescription" or environmental conditions such as temperature, wind, fuel moisture, ventilation, and relative humidity that need to be present before the project begins. When the criteria are met, crews implement, monitor, and patrol each burn to ensure it meets the goals and objectives outlined by managers.

We appreciate the public's tolerance of some smoke impacts in order to achieve the San Bernardino National Forest's fire prevention and resource management goals, and the public can call our local offices to find out where we are burning at the following numbers:

Big Bear Ranger Station & Discovery Center 909-382-2790
Lytle Creek Ranger Station 909-382-2851
Idyllwild Ranger Station 909-382-2922
Mill Creek Work Center 909-382-2882
Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument 760-862-9984

For additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest, please visit:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>

About the U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

The San Bernardino National Forest is comprised of three Ranger Districts spanning 676,666 acres in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. From the desert floor to the pristine mountain peaks, the San Bernardino National Forest offers natural environments, spectacular scenery, developed campgrounds and picnic areas, numerous recreational opportunities, and the solitude of quiet wilderness and open space for the over 24 million residents of Southern California and those visiting the area. The forest environment also provides habitat for numerous plants and animals and is crucial in sustaining drinking water, air, and soil quality.

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